

U.S. Application No. 10/613,689
Filed: July 3, 2003

Remarks

This Amendment and Response is submitted in response to the office action mailed on June 13, 2007. This communication is believed to be a full and complete response to that office action.

Claims 19-26, 28-43 and 45-57 were pending in the present application at the time the office action was issued. Claims 19-26, 28-43 and 45-57 were rejected in the Office Action.

Claims 19-26, 28-43 and 45-57 have been cancelled.

Claims 57 and 58 have been added.

Support for the amendments can be found in the original specification, and thus, no new matter has been added. Applicant reserves the right to pursue all original claims in this or other patent applications. Reconsideration and reexamination of the present application is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and in view of the following remarks.

Priority

The Examiner noted that applicant's claim for priority is acknowledged, but that applicant has not complied with one or more conditions for receiving the benefit of an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 119. Applicant hereby acknowledges his obligation to satisfy the statutory and rule requirements for perfecting his priority claim.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 19-24, 26, 28-29, 31-33, 37-41, 43, 45-46, and 48-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ganz (US 3,848,519).

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Claims 19-23, 26, 28-33, and 54-57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Greenwell et al. (US 5,862,648).

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 24 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Greenwell et al. (US 5,862,648).

Claim 25 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ganz (US 3,848,519) or Greenwell et al. (US 5,862,648) in view of Ford (US 5,626,002).

Claim 42 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ganz (US 3,848,519) in view of Ford (US 5,626,002).

Claims 30 and 47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ganz (US 3,848,519) in view of Konzal et al. (US 4,819,411).

Claims 34-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ganz (US 3,848,519) or Greenwell et al. (US 5,862,648) in view of Buckingham et al. (US 4,237,676).

Claims 51-53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ganz (US 3,848,519) in view of Buckingham et al. (US 4,237,676).

Applicant believes that his invention is distinct from the art cited by examiner. Through this amendment and response, applicant has cancelled all previously submitted claims and has proffered claims that characterize the elements of the invention, without adding new matter, in a manner that is believed to clearly distinguish over the art cited.

Conclusion

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Applicant requests an opportunity to discuss the differences and seek resolution through an interview with the Examiner. Lastly, applicant respectfully requests approval and acceptance of the claims and that the case be passed to issuance.

No additional fees are believed to be due at this time. If, however, a fee is due, the Commissioner is requested to charge such fee, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3447.

Request for Interview

Applicant hereby formally requests an interview to discuss the issues in the case and to attempt to expedite the case to a final decision.

Respectfully submitted,



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